A story, set in Tajimi,
about high schoolgirls
and the Togei-bu,
pottery club.
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マグカップも
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YAKUNARA MUG CUP MO
FREE
MANGA

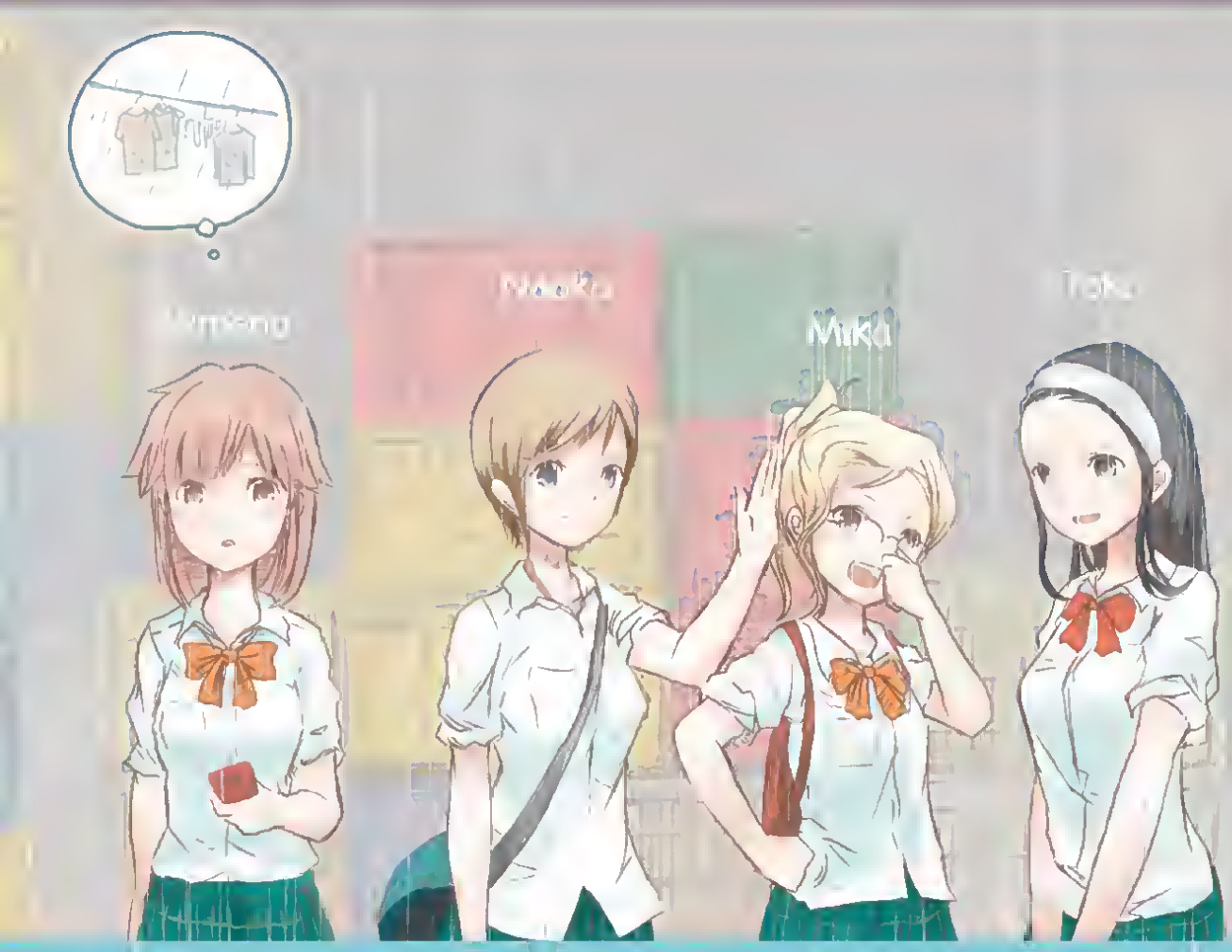
Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine. “Yakunara Mug Cup Mo” is a free publication put out by a group of people who love Tajimi. We call it “Kurukuru Rokuro Manga.”

The city of Tajimi, located in the southern part of Gifu Prefecture, Japan, is famous for Mino earthenware. The city is dotted with historical pottery producers and ceramic art museums. It has facilities where you can try your hand at making pottery, and many restaurants that serve food on Minoware dishes.

The story begins when a high school girl moves to a shopping street in Tajimi. Many encounters await her, friends, town folk, ceramic art, etc. What will she discover in a town famous for ceramics?

“Yakunara Mug Cup Mo” is a collaborative work by many people involved with Tajimi’s pottery culture. Like it's main characters, “Yakunara Mug Cup Mo” will develop slowly. We invite you to watch it grow.

Yakunara Mug Cup Mo staff

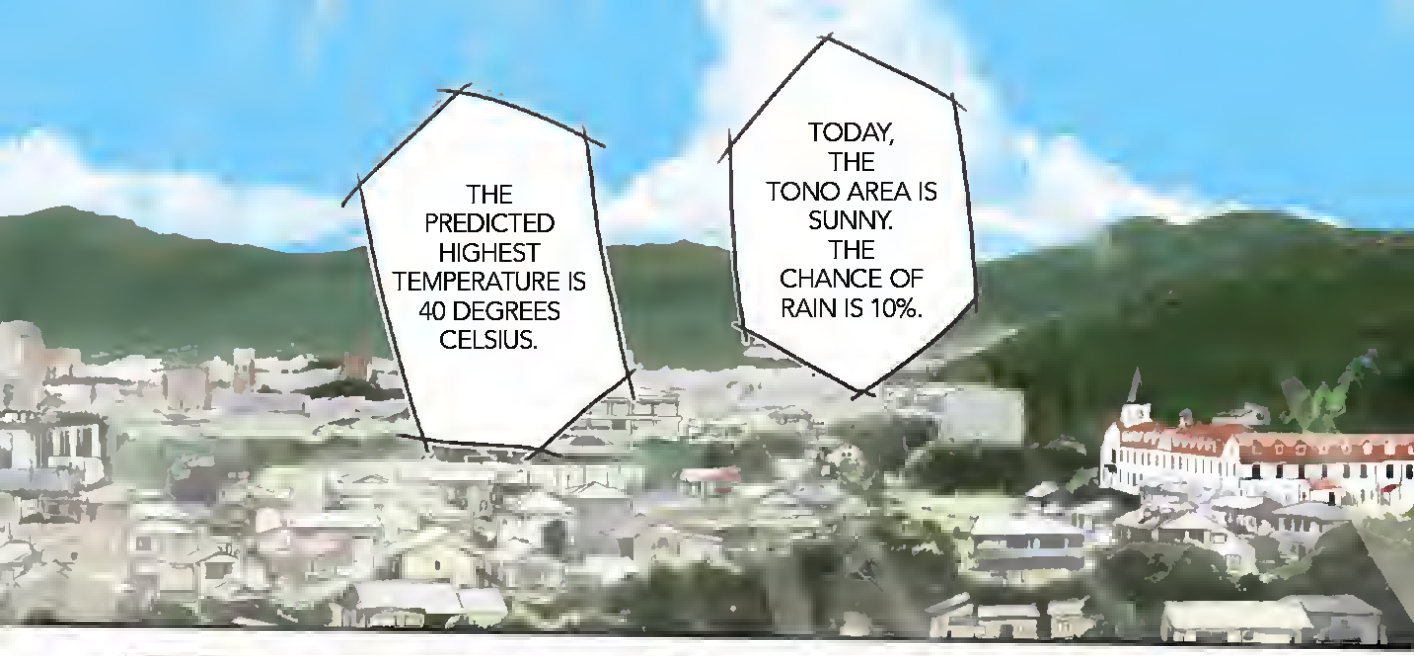


EPISODE 03

BAMBOO CHARCOAL AND BETLES

PREVIOUS EPISODE

[illegible]NO MOVED TO HER MOTHER'S HOMETOWN TAJIMI BECAUSE OF HIMENO'S [illegible]'S WORK. ON THE FIRST DAY AT A NEW SCHOOL, HIMENO WAS TAKEN TO THE [illegible]BU, POTTERY CLUB, BY HER CLASSMATE MIKA. HIMENO WAS AMAZED [illegible] THAT HER MOTHER WAS A FAMOUS POTTER. TO LEARN ABOUT TOGEI AND HER [illegible]'S LEGACY, SHE DECIDED TO JOIN THE TOGEI-BU.


THE PREDICTED HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IS 40 DEGREES CELSIUS.
TODAY, THE TONO AREA IS SUNNY. THE CHANCE OF RAIN IS 10%.

HOT!
IT IS!

SORRY
THE AIRCON-
-DITIONER
NOT WORKING

NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH NO CUSTO-MERS.
OH, BOY. HOW HOT IT IS!
YEAH, THIS HEAT IS KILLING US.
PROBABLY, IT'S THE HOTTEST DAY IN JAPAN.
EH... NO ONE IS COMING!
CUSTOM-ERS ARE COMING.
HEY! WHY ARE YOU CUTTING WORK!
WOW! WHAT HAPPNED!?
IT'S HOT!
AH... SITTING IN FRONT OF AN ELECTRIC FAN IS NOT GOOD FOR ME...

YOO-HOO!
HIME-CHAN, HOW ARE YOU?
HA-HA-HA RAINBOW
SPEAKING OF SUMMER IT'S ICE CREAM
SHE GOT ME A CHOCO-LATE ICE CREAM!
I BUMPED INTO NARUSE-SAN AT THE BOOK-STORE
HERE YOU ARE.
HI! YOU LOOK GREAT!
GIVE US A RIDE TO SCHOOL!
BANG DOWN!
FATHER!
HIME-CHAN, ARE YOU FREE NOW?
STOMP STOMP STOMP

WE'RE PICKINGUP SOME POT-TERY WAITING TO BE FIRED.
WE'RE FIRING IT AT A CAMP-GROUND.
CAMP?
OK?
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
YOU SHOULD WALK!
WHAT MADE YOU SO FULL OF ENERGY!?
PLEEEESE!
I'M TELLING YOU! WALK TO SCHOOL!
CAR CAR CAR CAR CAR
GIVE US A RIDE TO PICK UP OUR POTTERY FROM CLUBROOM!
STEAMING
STOP...
PLEESE!
UH...
わがまま…っ
TOO HOT
SO...
YOU SHOULD NOT MOVE.
I DON'T WANNA WALK.
..... TODAY
どーん

FIRE THEM WITH BAMBOO CHARCOAL?!
THAT'S A WASTE OF CHARCOAL. PLEASE DON'T MIKA-CHAN!
TO BEGIN WITH, THE TEMPERATURE TO FIRE BAMBOO CHARCOAL IS 700 OR 800
IF WE DO THAT, THE GLAZE WON'T MELT PERFECTLY
IT WILL JUST LOOK LIKE BURNT GRASS
YOU KNOW WHAT? MY UNCLE DOES POTTERY AS HIS HOBBY.
WE'RE ASKING HIM TO FIRE OUR POTTERY IN A BAMBOO CHARCOAL KILN.
IF WE'RE GONNA DO IT ANYWAY, THIS...
NO WAY! I HAVE ALREADY PAINTED IT!
HOT
I MISS SCHOOL
YEAH! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

HELLO. I'M HIMENO'S FATHER. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING SO NICE TO MY DAUGHTER.
AH, NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M TOKO AOKI.
EXCUSE ME... WHO ARE YOU?
OH, THERE IS STILL...
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT GOING TO A CAMP-GROUND TOMORROW.
やれやれ
HOW ABOUT COMING WITH US IF YOU LIKE?
EH? IT'S HOT...
THEY SAY YOU CAN PLAY IN THE RIVER. SO I'M GOING TOO.
SUMMER IS FOR CAMPING.
フフ
CAMP... RIVER... SOUNDS GREAT... OK, WHY NOT?
YOU'VE MADE FRIENDS.

MIKA-CHAN, THESE BINOCU-LARS ARE JUST GOING TO GET HEAVY.
NO PROBLEM!
OH! NARUSE-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
TOKO-SAN IS HERE
おはよう
ARE YOU COM-ING IN?
IT'S HOT...
DAD, DID YOU PACK YOUR UNDERWEAR?
OH! NOT YET.
I'M TAKING A KING-SIZED POT!
WE CAN BORROW IT.
DAD, HOW ABOUT INSECT REPELLENT SPRAY?
I GOT SOME.
HIME-NO, WHERE'S AN INSECT CAGE?
WHAT? LOOK FOR IT BY YOURSELF.
うおお
おお
あつーい
UH, THIS IS...
HIMENO'S MOTHER'S...
HIME-CHAN!
CAN I HAVE THIS TOKIKAWA HIMENA CUP?
No. No WAY
ララララー

YES, THEY ARE.
I SEE.
AH!
THEY ARE FIRING BAMBOO CHARCOAL.
.....
ARE YOU BURNING GRASS?
I'LL LET YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
I GOT IT
LOOK, ARE THESE POTTERIES OKAY HERE?
SEE OFF WE GO,
WHERE IS YOUR HAT?
HEH HEH TOKO-SAN, ARE YOU HAVING FUN?
NEED CHEWING GUM?
YEAH
ARE YOU OKAY?
IS THE RIVER DEEP?
Y, YES.

WE'RE HERE!
わーーい
MIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE LATE.
UNCLE!
わーい
IS THIS THE PLACE FOR FIRING?
NO, THAT'S OUT-SIDE.

HELLO, I'M MIKA'S UNCLE, KUKURI.
HE'S AN OLDER BROTHER OF MY DAD.
I'M TOYOKA-WA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
SHALL WE GET STARTED
DAD, WE'RE GOING DOWN.
OH, BE CAREFUL.
EH?
ALL RIGHT!!
I'LL MAKE YAKISOBA FOR LUNCH.
LET'S GO, HIME-CHAN!
THANK YOU! YEAH!
DRINK PLENTY OF WATER!
MAKE SURE

EVERYONE!
THIS IS MY CHARCOAL KILN. PRETTY NICE, EH?
I PUT BAMBOO STICKS IN THERE FOR 1 DAY.
AND IT COMES OUT AS CHAR-COAL.
WHILE I WAITED THIS TIME I MADE...

TAKE A LOOK AT MINE.
HE HAS THE SAME TASTE AS KUKURI-CHAN
YES. HE DOES
WOW!
THESE!
TADA~
WHALE
OCTOPUS
HARMIT CRAB
HEE HEE
WE'LL SEE AFTER FIRING.
HOW WILL THEY TURN OUT?
POTTERY LOOKS BEST FIRED IN CHARCOAL.
WELL, WHY NOT BAKE THEM IN KILN AFTER YOU'VE MADE THEM.

ARE ALL THE PIECES IN THE KILN?
HEH HEH, I HAVE ONLY ONE.
パチ
パチ.

HOT!
REALLY...
LETME DO NEXT
YES! WHEN IT'S HOT, DO SOMETHING HOT!
THAT'S WHAT SUMMER IS ALL ABOUT!!
WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP THE TEMPERATUE STEADY
LET'S GO TO THE RIVER.
HEY

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO PRACTICE
WE HAD MUCH MORE WATER LAST-YEAR
WHAT!?
YOU TRICKED US!
YOU CAN'T?
HEE HEE
YOU CAN'T SWIM...?
PUH!
NO WAY
OH,NO
みおちゃーん

WAAAAA NARUSE SAN PUSHED ME...
WHAT ARE THEY DO-ING?
HAVE YOU BURNED CHARCOAL BEFORE?
OH
IT WILL START SMOKING SOON.
LET'S EAT THE YAKISOBA BEFORE IT BURNS

I KNOW SOMEONE...
WHO TRIED ANYHING.
A LONG TIME AGO
YOU TRICKED ME!
HURRY UP! AOKI-SAN IS GONNA EAT IT ALL!
IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS.
THANK YOU FOR WAIT-ING.
LOOK AT THE STARS THERE IS AN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY!
B, BUGS?
I I WANT TO CATCH BUGS.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO AFTER EATING?
GO AHEAD. I'M MAKING CURRY.
REALLY?
CATCHING BUGS
SUMMER IS SO MUCH FUN!!!

YES, LET'S!!
SHALL WE GO?
ハァハァ
KICK!
KEEP IT UP!
クライミング
NO!!!
ポト
ポト
ぴとり
YES! IT IS LIKE A "SUMMER VACATION"!
HA-HA-HA DO YOU DO THIS VERY OFTEN?

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO IN SUMMER?
WELL, A LOT OF THINGS
I HAVE SOME SPRAY.
I'M ITCHY.
IT WAS IN THE WOODS!
HIME-CHAN, HOW ABOUT ADDING THIS MUSHROOM?
NO!
WHAT?
ER TOKO-SENPAI! AFTER PEELING THESE POTATOES, THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT.
YOU'RE LATE. DID YOU GET SOME-THING?
HI!
I'VE LOST MY TOUCH. I USED TO BE A YAKISOBA MASTER
IF WE LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS, KUKURI-CHAN IS GOING TO GO "TASTE" AWAY EVERYONE'S FOOD!
DAD! YOU'RE LATE!

GO AND GET YOUR OWN.
SHOW ME!
READY TO EAT?
THERE AREN'T MANY POTA-TOES, ARE THERE
IS IT DELICIOUS?
PUT IT AWAY SOMEWHERE BEFORE SLEEPING, PLEASE
BANG!

HEY... I CAN'T STAND BUGS.
DO YOU KNOW, KUKURI-CHAN?
IT'S GONE!
MY BEETLE!
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T BRUSH THE SAND OFF ON ME
HA HA HA IT SMELLS NICE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO REMOVE THE SAND AND TAKE THE POTTERY OUT.
HOW ABOUT STOPPING BY THE RIVER ON OUR WAY HOME?

OH, NO
DROP
DROP
WELL
IT NEVER GOES QUITE AS PLANNED.
ER... LIFE
MY WIFE HIMENA USED TO ENJOY IT.
CAN I HAVE THIS?
MR. KUKURI
REALLY?
BUT YOUR POTTERY IS BROKEN
HA-HA-HA THESE CHARCOAL STICKS ARE QUITE WELL DONE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LOOK! MINE AREN'T BROKEN.
BAMBOO SOOT TURNED TO SILVER.
VERY BLACK
HEH HEH HEH
SO THAT'S HOW IT TURNED OUT.
I SEE. IT LOOKS GOOD.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW.
IS THAT RIGHT?
WHAT!?
IT'S MY BEETLE.
THAT'S A WHALE!!
SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT FROM MR. KUKURI?

The Summer Heat in Tajimi

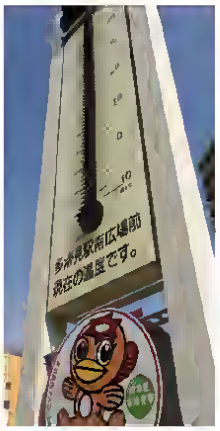
Tajimi city, Gifu is well known as one of the hottest cities in Japan in the summer.
On the weather forecast, Tajimi is almost daily cited as one of the cities which had a particularly high temperature.
Tajimi is located in a temperate zone.
According to the Meteorological Agency, days with temperatures above 30 degrees are defined as a "tropical", and days with temperatures above 35 degrees are defined as "mosbobi" heatwaves.
There were 23 tropical days and 8 heatwaves in July, 2014.
Ishigaki island, Okinawa, at the southernmost part of Japan, is located in a subtropical zone. It had tropical weather every day, but no heatwaves in July 2014.
The study says that Tajimi's geographical features of basin and a foehn phenomenon bring the heat to it. It results in summers with high humidity.

The best measures against the heat in Japan

On hot days, Unagapa, Tajimi's mascot character, makes its appearance at JR Tajimi station. It does various kinds of activities, for example, handing out uchiwas (Japanese fans), warning people to take precautions against heatstroke, and handing out goya (a bitter cucumber) seedlings to encourage the public to build a "green curtain" against the heat.

Goya green curtain at Tajimi city library

A thermometer is set at JR Tajimi train station



The heat in the daytime, the coolness at night

There are few sweltering nights although Tajimi records the highest temperatures on record in the daytime.
This is because the Toki River and basin landscape make it difficult for the air to spread horizontally. The warm air escapes perpendicularly after sunset and the temperature drops easily.

Nature experiental accomodation "Sannokura Chikyumura"

"Sannokura Chikyumura" is an experimental natural accommodation in Sannokura, Tajimi.
There are an astronomical observatory, a camping ground and sports facilities, where various kinds of events are held in accordance with the season.
In Yakumo manga, Kukuri Mika's uncle who makes bamboo charcoal is modeled on a group of people who used this facility.
There are similar facilities all over the country. They function to preserve local tradition and culture.

Takesumi (Bamboo Charcoal)

Takesumi is a man-made porous product. It can be used for various purposes, such as adjusting humidity, deodorization, air purification, etc.
Its minerals might also be used and anti-bacterials.
The tubular shape of takesumi makes it good to use as a decoration.

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